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ESCS

The Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service (ESCS) collects data for the domestic agricultural economy and documents agriculture-related information, domestic and international, for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It carries out research projects related to food and nutrition, cooperatives, natural resources, and rural development. It provides technical assistance to agricultural cooperatives.

ESCS provides objective and timely economic and statistical information for farmers, government policymakers, consumers, agribusiness firms, cooperatives, rural dwellers, and other concerned citizens. This work falls into the three broad areas: cooperatives, statistics, and economics.

COOPERATIVES

Through cooperatives, farmers jointly purchase production supplies, process and market their products, and obtain farm-related services. The Cooperatives unit of ESCS provides research and technical and educational assistance to help farmer cooperatives operate efficiently.

Technical assistance in cooperative organization and operation is provided on request by individual farmers and cooperatives, or groups of cooperatives. Results of research on financial, organizational, legal, and economic aspects of farmer cooperatives are distributed through various publications and periodicals.

STATISTICS

The Statistics unit of ESCS collects data on crops, livestock, poultry, dairy, prices, and labor, and publishes the official USDA State and national estimates through the Crop Reporting Board. The 44 field offices serving the 50 States also collect local information on acreages and yields, production, and weather.

This information, gathered by mail and telephone surveys, personal interviews, and in-the-field observation, is used by virtually every agriculture-related group: farmers working out planting, breeding, feeding, and marketing programs; government policymakers; food processors and commodity buyers; and consumers.

ECONOMICS

The Economics area of ESCS does research and analysis covering various topics related to agriculture and rural America.

Production and marketing of major commodities is one area of study. Analysts make long-range projections for supply, demand, and use of specific crops, dairy products, or livestock.

Another major area of research is foreign agriculture and trade. Economists assess foreign developments and agricultural policies to determine their impact on U.S. foreign agricultural trade.

Use, conservation, and development of natural resources as they affect economic growth are also covered. Research may center on the impact of environmental curbs on food production, for example, or the use of land and water in agriculture.

ESCS economists also examine rural population, employment, and housing trends, and rural people's economic adjustment problems.

Performance of the agricultural industry, including the production, processing, and marketing sectors is another important area of research. Analysts gather economic information in these areas for the use of consumers and those formulating food and fiber policies.

PUBLICATIONS AND SERVICES

ESCS issues hundreds of reports, newsletters, and bulletins each year on the latest agriculture-related topics and research. Subscriptions to the major periodicals listed below are available through the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), Washington, D.C. 20402.

The monthly FARMER COOPERATIVES magazine features articles about farmer cooperative technical and research projects and examines current cooperative issues. Free to cooperative members and others working directly with cooperatives; others may subscribe through GPO at the above address (\$10.10 per year; \$12.65 foreign).

AGRICULTURAL SITUATION examines current trends and research in agriculture, featuring a tabular summary of key agricultural statistics and review of economic and marketing developments affecting farming. Free to active crop reporters. Single free copies of the report, published 11 times a year, are available to others from ESCS Information, Room 5855-South, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. To subscribe (\$5 a year; \$6.25 foreign), contact GPO.

ESCS
User's
Guide

AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK brings together the outlook for food and agriculture, including sections related to commodities, food, marketing, world agriculture and trade, and farm income. The monthly report updates commodity, food, and situation reports, and features current data on farm income, prices, production, and general economic indicators. Annual subscriptions are available (\$17 domestic; \$21.25 foreign) from GPO.

The monthly FARM INDEX magazine features ESCS research findings and their implications, a digest of the agricultural outlook, and brief reviews of current ESCS research—all in nontechnical language. Subscriptions are available (\$9.50 yearly; \$12 foreign) from GPO.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS RESEARCH, a technical quarterly featuring articles on methods and findings of research in agricultural economics, includes reports on work in progress and articles on research methods and new areas of study. Subscriptions are available (\$6.50 domestic; \$8.25 foreign) from GPO.

WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETINS summarize weather and its effects on crops and farm progress the previous week by States. Order through the Agricultural Climatology Service Office, Room 1258, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250; \$13 annually.

Copies of the ESCS publication, "Periodicals 1978," describing regularly issued commodity and situation reports and others are available free through ESCS Information, Room 0054-South, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250, as is a Farmers Cooperative Publication catalog listing more than 175 cooperative reports and educational bulletins.

The following reports are also available at the above address unless otherwise indicated.

OUTLOOK AND SITUATION REPORTS for individual commodities are issued throughout a crop year and are updated in the monthly *Agricultural Outlook* magazine. The reports analyze supply and demand, price, and outlook for cotton and wool, dairy products, fats and feed, fertilizer, fruits, livestock poultry and eggs, rice, sugar and

eners, tobacco, vegetables, and wheat. See "Periodicals 1978" for a calendar of issue dates for situation reports on the above commodities.

Approximately 175 various RESEARCH REPORTS, STATISTICAL BULLETINS, and COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL BULLETINS are published through ESCS yearly, covering virtually all topics of agricultural research, including commodity production, marketing, natural resources, rural development, and assistance to cooperatives. The latest research publications are highlighted in the monthly FARM INDEX; single free copies of the research reports are available through ESCS Information.

The 1978 CROP REPORTING BOARD CATALOG, outlining reports of estimates on production, stocks, and prices of commodities and the release dates of the reports, is available free from the ESCS Crop Reporting Board, Room 0005, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

FARMERS' NEWSLETTERS, designed to help farmers make production and marketing decisions, are issued free at critical times during a crop year for oilseeds, cotton, wheat, livestock, and feed. To subscribe, send your name and address to ESCS Information, indicating which newsletter you wish to receive.

These electronic media information sources are also available: Farmers, businesses and others who need information can obtain it quickly through a COMPUTER REPORTING SERVICE network.

This automated system offers summaries of situation reports, crop and livestock estimates from the Crop Reporting Board, and agricultural supply and demand estimates. Users gain access on their own terminals, and there is a charge based on computer time. For more information about this service, contact the Secretary of the Crop Reporting Board, Room 0233, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

THE FARMER'S NEWSLINE report, featuring 60 seconds of the latest crop, livestock, and farm economic information, is changed each weekday at 4 p.m. Washington, D.C. time. Call toll-free (800) 424-7964.

Please send me a complimentary copy of (check choice):

☐ Farmer Cooperatives
☐ Agricultural Situation
☐ Agricultural Outlook
☐ Agricultural Economics Research
☐ Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin
☐ Contacts for Economic and Statistical Information (ESCS telephone listing by subject)

ESCS Information
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Room 0054-South
Washington, D.C. 20250

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